(4) Closer interaction and follow up with the forest Deptt. of the State Govt. and the MOEF is being undertaken to expedite the issue of forest clearance.

White Paper on Defence

1877. PROF. A. LAKSHMI-SAGAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an internal Indian Navy document has recently expressed discontentment over the Defence Service being marginalised in the process of national level security policy and has asked for a White Paper on Defence;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) A document has been prepared by the Indian Navy which deals wih various factors impinging for national security. The document is being studied by the government.

National Security Council

1878. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
DR. B. B. DUTTA:
SHRI RAGHAVJI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently constituted a six-member National Security Council (NSC) under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister to undertake a strategic defence review;

(b) if so, the main functio of this three-tier Council; and

(c) whether Government have examined/accepted any other recommendations of the three-member Task Force, headed by former Defence Minister, Shri K. C. Pant, on whose recommendations above mentioned NSC has been constituted?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) A six member National Security Council (NSC) has been set up. The Strategic Policy Group under the NSC will undertake the strategic defence review as one of its priority tasks.

(b) The functions of the NSC would include reviewing, monitoring, making long-term prognoses and considering policy options on all aspects of national security of the country.

(c) The recommendations of the K. C. Pant Task Force were taken into consideration in the Government decision on setting up the NSC.

Nuclear command and control system

1879. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a nuclear command and control system is being evolved;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the organisation/ Structure under the Department of Defence to handle safety and regulation of Defence Nuclear Activities including weapons development and deployment;

(d) the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) A command & control system exists.

(c) and (d) India's nuclear deterrent is predicated on the basic principle of strict political/civilian control. Such control would be exercised through appropriate scientific, technological and military management of the nuclear assets of the country to prevent unauthorised or accidental use.

(e) Does not arise.

Acquisition of land for INS Kattabomman in Tamil Nadu

1880. SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) how much land has been acquired so far for setting-up of INS Kattabomman of Vijayanarayanan in Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether it is a fact that job opportunities have not been provided to the owners or the wards of owners whose lands have been acquired by Government; and

(c) whether Government provide employment to all the families whose lands have been acquired in view of the hardship faced by the poor people due to the land acquisition?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Land measuring 2934.159 acres have been acquired for setting up of INS Kattabomman at Vijayanarayanan in Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu.

(b) and (c) As per the existing Government policy, no commitment is given with regard to employment to members of displaced families. However, due consideration is given to the members of the families whose land is acquired depending on the availability of vacancies and fulfilment of qualifications and other eligibility criteria laid down for the posts for which they apply.

Modernisation of Air Force and Navy

1881. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:
SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the details of steps taken/contemplated by Government to modernise Air Force and Navy?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): Modernisation of the Defence Forces is a continuous process and necessary steps, in pursuance thereof, are taken, keeping in view the current, as well as, futurisic threat perceptions. In so far as IAF is concerned, the steps taken include mid-life upgradation of some of the existing aircraft/weapon systems, acquisition of air defence/air superiority aircraft and induction of multirole state of the art aircraft. Steps have also been taken to strengthen the electronic warfare armour of the IAF, as well as, provision of precision guided munitions to enhance accuracy and lethality of its strike power. Combat aircraft and attack helicopters in the IAF inventory are also being equipped with night attack capability to enable them to operate both in day and night conditions. In respect of Navy, plans are afoot to acquire modern/state of the art frigates/submarines and modernisation of the aircraft car-